

THE COIN CIRCULAR.

VOL. I. TITUSVILLE, PA., MARCH, 1875.

No. 1.

The Growing Scarcity of Certain Varieties of American Coin.

Since coin collecting in America has taken such a decided start, complete sets of the national series are much more difficult to form. The increasing number of collectors of all ages requiring those of scarce date necessarily causes exorbitant prices to be put upon those coins, some of which, a few years ago, were considered of little more than their intrinsic value, and the growing demand for certain varieties makes coin collecting of particular interest.

Of the large copper cents there are still millions in circulation, although the Philadelphia mint is redeeming and melting them by the thousands, weekly. This is what we may term good riddance to bad rubbish, as twenty-five per cent of them are in a sadly mutilated condition, and unfit for circulation in a civilized country. From year to year there is certainly a perceptible decrease in their number circulating through the country.

When the small cents made their appearance in 1857 they were universally adopted, and "loose change" could then be carried with more convenience, and it was with little feeling of regret that we saw the consequential exit of the large coppers. It seems strange why such bulky coins for so extensive a circulation should have been introduced.

Many of the scarce varieties of our silver coin have undoubtedly made their exit through the jewelers melting pot, many have lost their facial character by extensive circulation, and many, in payment for foreign merchandise, have been sent abroad,—never perhaps to return to be valued by American collectors. This usage of American silver is going on every day and tends to lessen, in a small way, the number of scarce coins. Referring to an article in *Harper's Magazine* of fifteen years ago, we find a table of United States current coins with their relative grades of scarcity at that time, expressed by numbers from 1 to 7, 6 representing the highest degree of rarity. although the author claims to have had considerable experience in the collecting of coins, he has made several errors, and among them we would mention the half dime of 1802 marked 4, 1823 and 1827 quarter-dollars, and 1796 half cent, each

marked 5. Now we know that these pieces are and always were of the very highest order of rarity. But barring these errors the table serves to show us now the changes in the values of American coins within the last fifteen years.



Weight, 0.181 oz.—Fineness, .900.

We illustrate this month the new twenty cent silver coin. As to putting it into general circulation, there has been no decision as yet. A few specimens have been struck but it is impossible to obtain one.

The John Brown Medal.

Through the efforts of Victor Hugo and a number of other French citizens a gold medal has been struck to commemorate the martyrdom of John Brown; to whose widow it has recently been presented. Its weight is nearly five ounces and was designed by M. J. Wurder of Brussels. A bronze copy was presented to the late Wm. Lloyd Garrison. One side of the Medal bears an excellent likeness of John Brown, and the reverse bears the inscription:

"To the memory of John Brown, judicially murdered at Charlestown, in Virginia, on the 2d of December, 1859; and in commemoration also of his sons and comrades, who, with him, became the victims of their devotion to the cause of negro emancipation."

A HINT.—The Syracuse STANDARD justly remarks: "PEOPLE who send us 'communications' for publication ARE 'requested' not to 'quote' and UNDERSCORE SO MUCH. THIS IS ABOUT THE WAY a good deal of 'matter' would LOOK if we printed it as it is 'WRITTEN!'"

All our New York thieves appear suddenly to have developed a fancy for numismatics. Luther Bryant's collection was stolen, and now a visiting Boston coin-dealer has suffered the same way. It may be only a coin-cidence, but it looks funny. —N. Y. Com. Ad. Jan. 29.

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Subscription per Year, - 35 cents

Published by Geo. A. Dillingham

TITUSVILLE, PA. MARCH 1875.

INTRODUCTION.

I would respectfully introduce myself through the medium of this little sheet to those interested in the study of coins and medals—and to numismatists generally—not in a business way alone, nor as a collector, but as one who takes a pleasurable interest in the science for its own merits, and as a helper to promote its influence.

THE COIN CIRCULAR will be issued as a monthly periodical and I shall endeavor to make it interesting to coin-collectors, as well as to adapt it to their wants in business favor to myself, by inserting items of particular import to themselves, which can be gathered from month to month, as auctions, newly issued coins, numismatic advertisements etc., and I trust they will co-operate with me in promoting it in the cause it embarked, for without their assistance we must necessarily fail.

The resumption of specie payment will undoubtedly bring many new collectors in the field in this county, and we trust many of the old collectors who have long ago abandoned the occupation of coin collecting will again come forward with renewed interest and help to make more popular this branch of science, which we believe will then take a new standing, and the names of its patrons will be swelled to twice their former numbers.

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FOR the benefit of collectors we publish a list of reliable Coin Dealers:

BALTIMORE, John K. Brady, 112 Franklin Street.

BALTIMORE, John P. DesForges, 3 Saint Paul Street.

BALTIMORE, R. Read, Cor. Eutaw and Saratoga Streets.

BOSTON, Henry Ahlbom, Cambridge Bridge.

BOSTON, Henry Cook, 191 Washington Street.

BOSTON, C. W. Hallstrom, P. O. Box 693.

BROOKLYN, Edward Cogan, 408 State Street.

CINCINNATI, R. Downing, Walnut Street.

CINCINNATI, R. W. Mercer, 148 Main Street.

NEW YORK, Geo. B. Mason, 113 Pearl Street.

PHILADELPHIA, John W. Kline, 212 South Eighth Street.

PHILADELPHIA, John W. Haseltine, 1225 Chesnut Street.

TITUSVILLE, PA., Geo. A. Dillingham.

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A Branch United States Mint Wanted in Chicago.

CHICAGO, Jan. 29.—A large and enthusiastic meeting of leading bankers and business men was held at the Palmer House last evening, to take steps and consider measures to secure the establishment of a branch United States Mint here. Ex-Governor Bross presided, and in a short speech presented the subject to the meeting. Among the speakers were Adam Smith, Sol. A. Smith, John C. Dore, and L. J. Gage, of this city, and Dr. Fowler of Springfield, Illinois. The following was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, The subject of establishing a branch United States Mint in the West is now engaging the attention of Congress, therefore be it.

RESOLVED, FIRST—That it is the sense of this meeting that in view of the prospective restoration of our National finances to a specie basis, the need of facilities for coining the precious metals in the West is apparent and imperative.

SECOND—That we do urge it upon our Senators and Representatives at Washington to energetically press to its adoption the bill now before the Senate for the location of a branch United States Mint in Chicago.

A resolution was also adopted to appoint a Committee of three to proceed to Washington and personally urge the passage of the bill, and William Bross, of the 'Tribune,' Charles L. Wilson, of the 'Evening Journal' and Adam Smith banker, were appointed such Committee.—N. Y. COM. AD.

THE COIN CIRCULAR.

	Price.
1873 Three Cent Silver, proof,...	\$ 1.25
1874 do do Nickel, do10
1870 Two do Uncirculated...	.10
1871 do do .05 and .15	.15
1872 do do proof,.....	.35
1873 1, 2, 3 and 5 cent pieces, proof,	1.50
1804 Cent, good,.....	10.00
1816 do Uncirculated,.....	1.00
1817 do Fifteen stars, good,....	.60
1820 do Uncirculated, 1.00 and .50	1.50
1851 do do.....	.50
1853 do do.....	.50
1855 do do.....	.75
1856 do Bright,.....	.35
1856 do Nickel, pierced,.....	1.75
1856 do do Proof,.....	2.75
1857 do Copper, large and [Small dates .15 and Cents 1862 to 1874 Inclusive, .10	.20
1855 Cent Nickel, Flying Eagle pattern,....	1.00
X 1794 Half Cent, fine,	2.50
1811 do do Good,.....	2.50
1828 do do Twelve stars, good, .20	.20
1857 do do Bright,.....	.50
Henry III Penny, 1216 to 1272, .75	.75
do V Groat 2413 to 1422,...	1.75
do VII ½ Groat 1485 to 1509, 1.00	1.00
Charles I 40 Mark, Scotch, [1625 to 1649,....	1.00
Charles II Half Crown, fair,....	1.00
do do Farthing, good,...	.20
James II Three pence, ex. good, .40	.40
Anne Four Pence, fair,.....	.35
George II Silver Penny, good,.. .30	.30
do III do do fine,....	.50
Mexico 8, 2 and ½ Reals,.....	1.60
Canada 50, 25, 20, 10, and 5 [Cent pieces,....	1.30
City of Frankfort Two [Thaler piece, 1861,.....	1.50
Medal, Washington, com. res. [W. M, 29,....	1.00
Medal, Washington, com. res. [Bronze, 26,..	2.25
Medal, Wesley, 1866, W. M., 32, .75	.75
“ Castorland, 1796, [Copper, 20,	3.00
Medal, Masonic Temple, [Phil'a, Tin 24,	.25
Medal, Independence Hall, [Rev. Bell W. M., 24,..	.25
Medal, Centennial Ar: [Gallery, W. M., 27,....	.50

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